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3-21-03
PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 101.0083-0000

Customer No. 22882

Via Express Mail Label No. ET747368432US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)

Gary K. Michelson, M.D,)

) Group Art Unit: 3732

Serial No.: 09/991,247)

) Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: November 15, 2001)

For: RATCHETED BONE DOWEL)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant

reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

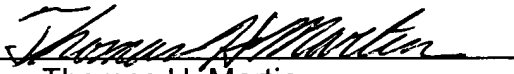
Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-1066.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTIN & FERRARO, LLP

Date: March 11, 2003

By: 
Thomas H. Martin
Registration No. 34,383

14500 Avion Parkway, Suite 300
Chantilly, VA 20151-1101
Telephone: (703) 679-9300
Facsimile: (703) 679-9303